

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SCCT-01 CU-02 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 SY-05

OPR-02 A-01 OMB-01 /089 W

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P R 191655Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1137

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 7617

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TS

SUBJ: TROUBLE AMONG TUNIS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

1. STUDENT STRIKE TOOK PLACE AT FACULTY OF LETTERS, TUNIS UNIVERSITY, DECEMBER 9 AND 10. REASON WAS APPARENTLY A NUMBER OF THE USUAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT CROWDED CLASSES AND DORMITORIES AND OTHER PURELY UNIVERSITY MATTERS. AFFAIR ESCALATED INTO VIOLENCE WHEN STUDENTS INVADED DEAN'S OFFICE DOING SOME PROPERTY DAMAGE, TEARING UP PICTURES OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, AND GETTING INTO FRANCAS WITH CUSTODIAN PERSONNEL. POLICE ARRESTED FOUR STUDENTS WHO WERE TRIED IN CONSPICUOUSLY SUMMARY FASHION DECEMBER 17 AND GIVEN SENTENCES OF UP TO TWO YEARS FOR "AN OUTRAGE AGAINST THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT" PLUS LESSER PERIODS FOR LESSER OFFENSES INVOLVED.

2. NEWS SPREAD OF THIS ABRUPT TRIAL AND MOST OF THE REST OF TUNIS UNIVERSITY AND SOME SECONDARY SCHOOLS WENT ON SYMPATHY STRIKE DECEMBER 18. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SOURCES TOLD US NOON SEPTEMBER 19 THAT SOME 5,000 OF UNIVERSITY'S 15,000
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STUDENT BODY WERE PREPARING DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING SUMMARY

TRIAL. MOVEMENT WAS EXPECTED TO START AT UNIVERSITY'S
NEW CAMPUS OUTSIDE TUNIS PROPER. RIOT POLICE WERE IN PLACE
THIS AFTERNOON AND OFFICIALS EXPECTED TO CONTAIN AT THE
CAMPUS ANY DEMONSTRATION THAT MIGHT DEVELOP.

3. PUBLIC OPINION GENERALLY HAS BEEN STARTLED BY THE TRIAL,
AT WHICH DEFENSE ATTORNEYS HAD NO TIME TO PREPARE A CASE.
IT IS BEING SAID THAT ORDERS WERE GIVEN FROM HIGH IN GOT TO
CONDEMN THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTS WHICH THE PROSECUTOR
TERMED "SUBVERSIVE" AND TO SEND THE DEFENDANTS TO REMADA,
AN ARMY CAMP/PRISON IN THE TUNISIAN SOUTH.
KING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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